represents from 1 to 30% m/m, more preferably from 5 to 15% m/m, of the preparation.

The excipients used in the formulation of the thixotropic compositions according to the invention are chosen from pharmaceutically acceptable excipients that are inert with respect to the active substances that it is desired to formulate.

Furthermore, these excipients are chosen from excipients that are compatible with the casing of the hard capsules.

The excipients which are used in the formulation of the thixotropic compositions according to the invention are advantageously endowed with hydrophilic, lipophilic or amphiphilic properties with, for these, a variable hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB), which allow the dissolution or dispersion of both hydrophilic and lipophilic active substances. The HLB of the vehicles may vary from 4 ± 1 for a combination of LABRAFIL® M1944CS and AEROSIL® to 20 ± 1 for a combination of LABRASOL® and SYNPERONIC®.

The compositions according to the invention contain an active substance which may be liquid or pasty but also solid, for example milnacipran hydrochloride (solubility in water of 600 g/l), baquimast (solubility in water of 0.23 g/l), nifedipine, triamterene, aluminum hydroxychloride, sodium salicylate, vancomycin, paramethadone and griseofulvin.

The hard capsules used within the context of the present invention consist of gelatin or of any [other] cellulose polymer capable of fulfilling the functions of the use of gelatin in the form of a hard capsule, such as hydropropylmethyl cellulose.

The invention is not limited to these examples and a person skilled in the art will be easily able to include any active substance of his choice, whether liquid, pasty or even solid, in the compositions described.

The present invention also relates to the use of the compositions described above in a cosmetic, dietary, pharmaceutical or veterinary preparation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The present invention is illustrated by the following examples with reference to the appended figures:

- figure 1 shows the rheogram of a formulation of example 4 of the invention and the rheogram of a composition of example 5, the rheological properties of which do not meet the criteria of the invention.

  The stress (in pascals) is plotted on the y-axis and the shear rate (in s^{-1}) is plotted on the x-axis;

- figure 2 gives the time dependence of the recovery in consistency of two formulations of the invention, that of example 2 and that of example 4.

  The complex modulus, expressed in pascals, is plotted on the y-axis and the time is plotted on the x-axis;

- figures 3 and 4 represent the degree of dissolution as a percentage (on the y-axis) of a formulation of example 1 and of a formulation of example 2, respectively, as a function of time (on the x-axis) expressed in hours and in minutes, representively.

EXAMPLES 1 TO 7:

a) **Preparation of the dispersions:**

Seven dispersions were prepared, each containing a continuous phase, a dispersed phase and an active phase.

The continuous phase consisted of an amphiphilic ester such as LABRAFIL M1944CS® (HLB = 4 ± 1) or LABRASOL® (HLB = 14 ± 1). It should be mentioned at this stag that the amphiphilic esters